

**THE FOLLOWING ARE THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION
OF ANNEXES TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT (ARTICLE 34):**

Amended Specification

METHOD OF MANUFACTURING ELECTRONIC PART,
AND ELECTRONIC PART

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a method of manufacturing an electronic part comprising a plurality of single-layer plates laminated in succession, and an electronic part, and particularly 10 to a method of manufacturing an electronic part suitable for forming an electrical conductor for effecting connection between adjacent ones of the single-layer plates, and an electronic part.

Related Background Art

15 There is known such an electronic part as forms a conductor portion extending through single-layer plates, and superposes these one upon another to thereby effect connection between the single-layer plates.

20 In the single-layer plates, there have heretofore been proposed and disclosed various manufacturing methods for forming a conductor portion for effecting the connection between layers. Figs. 6A to 6D of the accompanying drawings are step 25 illustrations showing the conventional manufacturing process of the single-layer plate of an electronic part.

In a single-layer plate constituting an electronic part, as shown in Fig. 6A, there are formed in advance a base member 1 formed of an insulating material having a predetermined thickness, 5 and conductor film 2 and a lower conductor layer 3 formed on the opposite sides of the base member 1.

To form an upper wiring pattern 4 and a lower wiring pattern 5 (see Fig. 7C of the accompanying drawings) on the opposite sides of the single-layer 10 plate of such a form, dry film 6 providing resist is first attached so as to cover the conductor film 2. After the dry film 6 has been attached, exposure and development are effected to thereby form an aperture 7 corresponding to the diameter of a conductor 15 portion which will be described later. After the aperture 7 has been thus formed in the dry film 6, as shown in Fig. 6B, etching is effected on the conductor film 2 exposed on the bottom surface of the aperture 7 to thereby remove the exposed conductor 20 film 2 from the aperture 7 and expose the base member 1.

After the base member 1 has been thus exposed on the bottom of the aperture 7 by the etching process, as shown in Fig. 6C, the dry film 6 is 25 peeled off and also, an opening portion 8 corresponding to the diameter of the aperture 7 is formed by laser irradiation. After the opening

portion 8 has been thus formed, as shown in Fig. 6D, electroless plating which is chemical plating is uniformly effected on the upper layer side and opening portion 8 of the base member 1 to thereby 5 form an electroless plating layer 9.

After the electroless plating layer 9 has been formed, electroplating is effected with the electroless plating layer 9 as electric power supplying film (electrode) to thereby precipitate a 10 metal 10 in the interior of the opening portion 8 and on the upper side of the conductor film 2. This state is shown in Fig. 7A of the accompanying drawings. As shown in Fig. 7B of the accompanying drawings, the interior of the opening portion 8 is 15 then filled with the metal 10 by electroplating whereafter as shown in Fig. 7C, patterning is effected on the conductor film 2 and the lower conductor layer 3 by a subtractive method, to thereby form the upper wiring pattern 4 and the lower wiring 20 pattern 5 and also, form a conductor portion 11 in the opening portion 8.

Now, in the foregoing conventional example, an electroless plating layer has been used to contrive an improvement in the close contact between the base 25 member and the conductor portion 10 (see, for example, Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. H11-343593), but there is also known a method of applying other

processing in place of the electroless plating layer (see, for example, Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 2001-217553).

However, the use of the above-described
5 electroless plating (and other method replacing the electroless plating) has posed such a problem as shown below.

That is, if as shown in Fig. 7B, an attempt is made to effect electroplating to thereby fill the
10 opening portion 8 with the metal 10 after the electroless plating layer has been formed, there has been the problem that a plating layer is thickly formed on the whole of one side of the base member and as the result, when as shown in Fig. 7C, wiring
15 patterns are to be formed by etching, the cross sections of the wiring patterns become trapezoid, and dimensional accuracy is reduced and wiring patterns of a narrow width cannot be formed.

Also, when the electroless plating layer 9 is
20 formed and electroplating is effected with this as an electrode, fresh plating liquid is more applied to the surface of the electroless plating layer 9 than to the inside of the aperture. Therefore, the growth of the electroplating layer on this surface is
25 promoted and as the result, there has been the possibility that before the opening portion 8 is filled with the metal material, the opening portion 8

is closed (by the electroplating layer) and a so-called void forms in the interior of the conductor portion 3.

Also, there has been the possibility that a
5 similar problem arises when the electroless plating
is not used, but other ante-processing is effected.

Now, when electroless plating is used, a metal catalyst is used to cause plating to adhere also to other portion (insulator portion) than a conductor.
10 However, if this metal catalyst is residual on the surface of a wiring layer, there has been the possibility that an insulation resistance value is reduced or an obstruction such as the short-circuiting of the wiring pattern is caused. In the
15 electronic parts in recent years, a narrower pitch is advanced and the possibility of the above-noted obstruction has become higher.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 In view of the above-noted problems peculiar to the prior art, the present invention has as its object to provide a method of manufacturing an electronic part which can disuse electroless plating which is the ante-processing of electroplating, or
25 other ante-processing corresponding thereto to thereby achieve the simplification of the process and also, achieve an improvement in electrical

reliability, and an electronic part.

The present invention has been made on the basis of the finding that if electroplating is grown with a conductor layer providing the surface of an opening portion and attached to one side of a single-layer plate as electric supplying film (electrode), a conductor portion can be formed without an electroless plating layer being used as an electrode.

That is, the method of manufacturing an electronic part according to the present invention is a method of manufacturing an electronic part in which on that side of an insulating member sandwiched between conductor film and a lower conductor layer which is adjacent to the conductor film, a conductor portion connected from the lower conductor layer is exposed, comprising forming an opening portion having the lower conductor layer as a bottom in the formed area of the conductor portion from the conductor film side, growing metal plating from the bottom of the opening portion with the lower conductor layer as an electrode, growing metal plating on the upper surfaces of the conductor film and the conductor portion with the conductor film and the conductor portion as electrodes after the metal plating has reached the conductor film to thereby form the conductor portion in the opening portion, and forming a thickness enough to form an upper conductor layer.

More specifically, the method according to the present invention is a method of manufacturing an electronic part in which on the upper surface of an insulating member covering a lower conductor layer, a 5 conductor portion connected from the lower conductor layer is exposed, comprising forming conductor film on the upper surface of the insulating member and protective film on a portion of the conductor film in a thickness direction, and thereafter forming an 10 opening portion having the lower conductor layer as a bottom in the protective film and the conductor film in the formed area of the conductor portion, growing metal plating from the bottom of the opening portion with the lower conductor layer as an electrode, and 15 growing metal plating on the upper surfaces of the conductor film and the conductor portion with the exposed conductor film and the conductor portion on which protective film is not formed as electrodes, to thereby form a thickness enough to form an upper 20 conductor layer after the metal plating has reached the conductor film to thereby form the conductor portion in the opening portion.

Design may be made such that the exposed conductor film providing the electrode is set outside 25 a product area or making the insulating member and the conductor film are made into a unit in advance, and this unit is used.

The electronic part according to the present invention is an electronic part having structure in which an upper conductor layer is formed on the upper side of an insulating member covering a lower conductor layer and also, the lower conductor layer and the upper conductor layer are connected together by a conductor portion extending through the insulating member, wherein the conductor portion providing the connection between the lower conductor layer and the upper conductor layer and an upper constant thickness in the upper conductor layer are formed by only the precipitation of a metal by electroplating.

According to the above-described construction, an etching process is first carried out from above the insulating member in which electric power supplying film and resist (dry film) are laminated. After the etching process has been carried out, the exposed insulating member is subjected to blast processing or laser working to thereby remove the insulating member corresponding to a conductor portion forming area, and the lower conductor layer underlying this insulating member is exposed to thereby form an opening portion. Instead of carrying out the etching process, laser working may be applied. When the laser working is applied, it is popular that YAG laser (yttrium aluminum garnet laser) is used for

the above-described working to the conductor layer, a carbonic acid gas laser is used for the working to the insulating member formed of insulating resin. These different lasers can be carried on one and the same positioning mechanism from the standpoint of improving working efficiency to thereby effect continuous working (of the conductor layer and the insulating member).

After the opening portion has been thus formed, electroplating is effected with the lower conductor layer as an electrode, whereupon a metal precipitated by the plating grows from the lowermost position of the opening portion, i.e., the lower conductor layer. When the growth of the metal plating starting from the lower conductor layer continues, the inside of the opening portion is filled with the metal plating and a conductor portion is formed. When here, the conductor portion grows and reaches conductor film located on the upper surface of the insulating member, the area of the electrode increases from the area of the conductor portion to the area of the conductor portion plus the conductor film, and the current density per unit area in the electrode lowers greatly. Therefore, the conductor portion is electrically connected to the conductor film, whereby this can become the stopper of the growth of the conductor portion.

By the stopper action due to this increase in the area of the electrode, the following effect can be obtained.

If the inner diameter of the opening portion in 5 the insulating member is uneven, unless the conductor film is used as the stopper, the volume of the plating which fills the opening portion also becomes uneven in conformity with the unevenness of the volume in the opening portion, and finally affects 10 the unevenness of the height of the plating. The degree of this unevenness becomes more remarkable as the current density for the precipitation of the plating is higher.

However, if the conductor film is used as the 15 stopper, even if the unevenness of volume exists among a plurality of opening portions, the area of the electrode will increase from a point of time at which the conductor portion has conducted to the conductor film, and along therewith, the current 20 density will lower greatly. Therefore, the precipitation speed of the plating will be lowered, and even if the volume of the opening portion is uneven, it becomes possible to suppress the influence thereof upon the height of the plating.

25 Now, in a case where the conductor portion conducts to the conductor film, the conductor portion and the conductor film provide electrodes as

previously described and therefore, the film thicknesses of the conductor portion and the conductor film are increased, and a film thickness necessary for a wiring pattern (i.e., the thickness of the upper conductor layer) can be secured by time control or the like. Further, the conductor portion formed in the opening portion has its cross-sectional shape made into a substantially T-shape closely adhering with the upper conductor layer and therefore is improved in joint strength, and the inconvenience that the conductor portion is peeled off from the opening portion by an extraneous force can be prevented.

While in the above-described construction, for the convenience of construction, use has been made of the lower conductor layer and the conductor portion overlying this lower conductor layer, this upper and lower positional relationship is not restrictive, but of course, an electronic part manufactured by the above-described process may be used in such a manner that the conductor portion is the lower side and the lower conductor layer overlies the conductor portion.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a cross-sectional view of the essential portions of a single-layer plate having a conductor portion formed therein.

Fig. 2 is an illustration showing the construction of an electronic part comprising a plurality of single-layer plates shown in Fig. 1 laminated.

5 Figs. 3A, 3B, 3C and 3D are process illustrations showing the procedure of forming a conductor portion in a single-layer plate.

10 Figs. 4A, 4B, 4C and 4D are process illustrations showing the procedure of forming a conductor portion in a single-layer plate.

Fig. 5 is an illustration showing the positional relationship between a product forming area and an area outside the product.

15 Figs. 6A, 6B, 6C and 6D are process illustrations showing the manufacturing process of the conventional single-layer plate of an electronic part.

20 Figs. 7A, 7B and 7C are process illustrations showing the manufacturing process of the conventional single-layer plate of an electronic part.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

A method of manufacturing an electronic part, and an electronic part will hereinafter be described 25 in detail with respect to a preferred specific embodiment thereof shown in the drawings.

An electronic part according to the present

embodiment is of a form in which wiring patterns are laminated on the opposite sides of a single-layer plate. A plurality of such single-layer plates are laminated to thereby form stereoscopic wiring
5 structure between the single-layer plates.

Fig. 1 is a cross-sectional view of the essential portions of a single-layer plate having a conductor portion formed therein, and Fig. 2 is an illustration showing the construction of an
10 electronic part comprising a plurality of single-layer plates shown in Fig. 1 laminated.

As shown in these figures, the single-layer plate 20 constituting the electronic part according to the present embodiment has a base member 22
15 comprising an insulating member having a predetermined thickness, an upper wiring pattern 24 formed on the upper surface of this base member 22, and a lower wiring pattern 26 formed on the back side of the base member 22.

20 In the above-described base member 22, an opening portion 28 having the lower wiring pattern 26 as a bottom surface is formed so as to extend through the base member 22, and a conductor portion 30 precipitated by electroplating is formed in the
25 opening portion. This conductor portion 30 has its cross section enlarged in diameter into a T-shape on the upper wiring pattern 24 side so that a thickness

necessary for the upper wiring pattern 24 may be secured by this enlarged diameter portion. Because the conductor portion 30 has its cross section formed into a T-shape, end portions larger in diameter than 5 the opening portion 28 are formed on the opposite ends of the base member 22, and even if an extraneous force is applied to the single-layer plate 20, the inconvenience that the conductor portion 30 comes off from the opening portion 28 can be prevented.

10 Now, the above-described conductor portion 30 was formed by only electroplating without ante-processing such as, for example, electroless plating being carried out. Therefore, in the single-layer plate 20 manufactured by the manufacturing method 15 according to the present embodiment, the ante-processing step such as electroless plating becomes unnecessary when the conductor portion 30 is to be formed and thus, the shortening of the manufacturing process is achieved. Further, by the aforementioned 20 ante-processing step being made unnecessary, for example, a metal catalyst used to improve the reaction speed of the electroless plating process can be prevented from being residual on the wiring pattern side, and it becomes possible to improve the 25 reliability of the electronic part.

A method of manufacturing the electronic part having such a feature will be shown below.

Figs. 3A to 3D and Figs. 4A to 4D are process illustrations showing the procedure of forming a conductor portion in a single-layer plate.

To form the conductor portion 30 so as to extend through the single-layer plate 20, in the base member 22 having conductor layers (conductor film 32 and a lower conductor layer 34) formed on the opposite sides thereof, as shown in Fig. 3A, dry film (resist) 36 providing protective film is first attached so as to cover the conductor film 32. After this dry film 36 has been attached, photoetching is effected on this dry film 36 to thereby form an aperture 38 corresponding to the aforescribed opening portion 28.

After the aperture 38 corresponding to the diameter of the opening portion 28 has been thus formed in the dry film 36, etching is effected on the conductor film 32 exposed under the dry film 36 to thereby remove the conductor film 32. Fig. 3B shows the state after the conductor film 32 has been removed by etching.

After the lower conductor layer 34 has been removed by the etching to thereby expose the surface of the base member 22, the dry film 36 is removed from the conductor film 32 side as shown in Fig. 3C, whereafter the base member 22 exposed on the bottom of the aperture 38 is removed by laser irradiation to

thereby form the opening portion 28 in which the lower conductor layer 34 is exposed on the bottom surface. Fig. 3D shows the cross-sectional shape after this opening portion 28 has been formed.

5 After the opening portion 28 has been formed, electroplating is effected with the lower conductor layer 34 as electric power supplying film (electrode). If electroplating is thus effected with the lower conductor layer 34 as the electric power supplying 10 film, a metal 42 is precipitated in the direction of arrow 40 in Fig. 4A. When a predetermined time elapses, the metal 42 in the opening portion 28 grows, and reaches the conductor film 32. Fig. 4B shows a state in which the metal 42 has reached the conductor 15 film 32 (i.e., a state in which electrical conduction has been achieved).

When the metal 42 thus reaches the conductor film 32, not only the metal 42 in the opening portion 28 but also the conductor film 32 act as electrodes 20 and therefore, the film thickness of the entire conductor film 32 increases as indicated by arrows 44 in Fig. 4C. When the metal 42 grows and reaches the conductor film 32, the area of the electric power supplying film providing an electrode increases from 25 an area corresponding to the diameter of the opening portion 28 to that area plus the conductor film 32, whereby the current density per unit area in the

electrode can be reduced greatly. Therefore, the conductor portion is electrically connected to the conductor film, whereby it can become a stopper for the growth of the conductor portion and also, even if
5 there is the unevenness of diameter between adjacent opening portions, it becomes possible to suppress the precipitation speed to thereby suppress the unevenness in the height direction.

After with the lapse of time, the film
10 thickness formed above the conductor film 32 has reached a preset film thickness (i.e., the preset thickness of the upper conductor layer), the patterning of the upper conductor layer and the lower conductor layer 34 is effected by a subtractive
15 method or a semi-additive process, and an upper wiring pattern 24 and a lower wiring pattern 26 are formed from these conductor layers. Fig. 4D shows a state in which a conductor portion 30 extending through the base member 22, and the upper wiring pattern 24 and the lower wiring pattern 26 have been
20 formed.

In Fig. 3B, there is shown an example in which the dry film 36 is peeled off, but when as shown, for example, in Fig. 5, in the entire single-layer plate
25 20, the dry film 36 is smaller than the conductor film 32, this is not restrictive. That is, if the conductor film 32 protrudes beyond a product forming

area 46 corresponding to the area of the dry film 36, and is exposed by a sufficient area in a product outside area 48, the stopper action according to the conductor portion 30 is obtained by the conductor film 32 in the product outside area 48 and therefore, the dry film 36 in the product forming area 46 need not be peeled off. In this case, the conductor film 32 in Figs. 3C and 3D is not plated, and the degree of freedom can be more improved for the formation of the upper wiring pattern 24. Also, it is not restrictive to obtain the stopper action by the conductor film 32 located in the product outside area, but for example, a portion in which the conductor is exposed may be formed in a portion of even a product inside area excluding the opening portion to thereby obtain the stopper action, or the stopper action may be obtained by a combination of the exposed conductors in the product outside area and the product inside area.

If the metal 42 is thus grown in the opening portion 28 with the lower conductor layer 34 as the electric power supplying film, it becomes possible to apply charges even if a plurality of opening portions 28 are formed, and a plurality of conductor portions 30 can be formed. Also, if as described above, the single-layer plate 20 is formed by the use of the manufacturing method according to the present

embodiment, an ante-step such as electroless plating can be eliminated and therefore, the simplification of the manufacturing process by the elimination of the step becomes possible, and the metal catalyst used for the electroless plating becomes unnecessary, and the reliability of the electronic part can be improved. The conductor portion 30 is sandwiched between the upper wiring pattern 24 and the lower wiring pattern 26 diameter-enlarged from the opening portion 28 and therefore, even if an extraneous force is applied to the single-layer plate 20 itself, the conductor portion 30 can be prevented from coming off from the opening portion 28.

Also, while in the present embodiment, description has been made of the procedure of superposing a plurality of single-layer plates one upon another to thereby form an electronic part, this form is not restrictive, but use may be made, for example, of a form in which what has been described in the present embodiment is applied to a core material, and wiring layers are laminated on the opposite sides of this core material.

While in the present embodiment, for the convenience of construction, mention has been made of the lower conductor layer and the conductor portion overlying this lower conductor layer, this upper and lower positional relationship is not restrictive, but

of course, the wiring layer manufactured by the above-described process and an electronic part using the same may be used in such a manner that the conductor portion (the upper conductor layer side) is 5 lower and the lower conductor layer overlies the aforementioned conductor portion.

As described above, according to the present invention, in a method of manufacturing an electronic part in which on that surface of an insulating member 10 sandwiched between conductor film and a lower conductor layer which is adjacent to the conductor film, a conductor portion connected from the lower conductor layer is exposed, an opening portion having the lower conductor layer as a bottom is formed in 15 the formed area of the conductor portion from the conductor film side, metal plating is grown from the bottom of the opening portion with the lower conductor layer as an electrode, and after this metal plating has reached the conductor film to thereby 20 form the conductor portion in the opening portion, metal plating is grown on the upper surfaces of the conductor film and the conductor portion with the conductor film and the conductor portion as electrodes so as to form a thickness enough to form 25 an upper conductor layer and therefore, the electroless plating step heretofore carried out (or other processing step replacing it) can be eliminated

and thus, the simplification of the manufacturing process can be achieved and also, it is possible to solve such a problem as a residual metal catalyst, and the degree of unevenness of the height in the thickness direction due to the stopper action and therefore, it becomes possible to improve electrical reliability.